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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,560	10/18/2000	John W. Svenkeson	00-046-NSC	1651

7590

10/04/2002

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EXAMINER

ALANKO, ANITA KAREN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1765

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

12P

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/690,560	SVENKESON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anita K Alanko	1765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3,4
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-7, 9-11, drawn to a method, classified in class 216, subclass 17.
- II. Claims 8, 12, drawn to a product, classified in class 174, subclass 1+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product can be made by a different process such as forming alignment features without the use of masks.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mark Stuenkel on September 25, 2002 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-7, 9-11. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 8 and 12 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Pellegrino (US 4,631,100) and Inaba et al (JP 04-186731A).

Pellegrino discloses a method of forming a conductive device comprising:

- forming a conductive layer on a substrate (col.4, lines 4+);
- etching the conductive layer to form a plurality of conductive traces (col.5, lines 19-37);
- and
- removing substrate material to form mechanical alignment features (col.5, lines 35-37).

Pellegrino does not disclose to form the mechanical alignment features by removing material exposed through a mask. Inaba teaches that through-holes and patterns in substrates can be formed simultaneously with a laser through a mask. Inaba teaches a method of forming a conductive device comprising:

forming a conductive layer 3 on a substrate 1;

patterning the conductive layer to form mask features; and

removing (by laser ablation) substrate material that is not covered by the mask features so as to form a through-hole 5 and predetermined patterns 10 in the substrate.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to remove material with a laser through a mask in the method of Pellegrino because Inaba teaches that this is useful for accurately positioning and forming through-holes in substrates.

As to claims 2 and 10, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to perform the etching steps simultaneously in order to save time and money.

As to claims 4-7 and 11, Pellegrino discloses to form an aperture or slot, but does not explicitly disclose to form a side edge or tab. Examiner takes official notice that side edges and tabs are conventional in the art. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to remove material to form a side edge or tab in the modified method of Pellegrino because they are conventional in the art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art shows method of forming conductive devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita K Alanko whose telephone number is 703-305-7708. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin L Utech can be reached on 703-308-3836. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9057 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Anita K. Alanko

Anita K Alanko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1765

AKA

October 1, 2002